

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A portable imaging system transportable by a user between a first and second location for scanning an image for later production of an image product, comprising:

- (a) a first and second member movable between an open and closed position;
- (b) a scanning area disposed in either the first or second member and accessible when the system is in the open position for receiving and scanning the image to produce a digital image;
- (c) memory for storing the digital image; and
- (d) a communication port adapted to transmit the digital image from the portable imaging system over a communications network to a device for later production of the image product comprising the digital image.

2. The portable imaging system of Claim 1, further comprising a display disposed in either the first or second member for displaying the digital image.

3. The portable imaging system of Claim 1, further comprising an input device adapted to collect information associated with the digital image.

4. The portable imaging system of Claim 1, wherein the input device is a keyboard or a touchscreen display.

5. The portable imaging system of Claim 1, further comprising software for modifying the digital image.

6. The portable imaging system of Claim 1, further comprising software for zooming and cropping the digital image prior to transmitting the digital image to a printer.

7. The portable imaging system of Claim 1, further comprising advertisement or instructional information displayable on the display when the system is in the open position.

8. The portable imaging system of Claim 1, further comprising software for tracking information associated with the scanned digital image.

9. The portable imaging system of Claim 1, further comprising a payment mechanism for receiving payment.

10. The portable imaging system of Claim 1, further comprising a device for receiving audio information.

11. The portable imaging system of Claim 1, further comprising an input port adapted to receive a removable media comprising a digital file.

12. The portable imaging system of Claim 1, further comprising a second memory to provide backup storage of the digital image.

13. The portable imaging system of Claim 1, wherein the communication port is adapted to transmit the digital image from the portable imaging system to an image producing device disposed at a retail location.

14. The portable imaging system of Claim 1, wherein either the first or second member includes a modulated light source for illuminating the image.

15. A portable imaging system transportable by a user between a first and second location for scanning an image for later production of an image product, comprising:

- (a) a first and second member movable between an open and closed position;
- (b) a scanning area disposed in either the first or second member and accessible when the system is in the open position for receiving and scanning the image to produce a digital image;
- (c) a display for displaying the digital image;
- (d) memory for storing the digital image; and
- (e) an output device for transferring the digital image stored in the memory to a removable media.

16. The portable imaging system of Claim 15, further comprising a payment mechanism for receiving payment.

17. A portable image capture device transportable by a user between a plurality locations for scanning an image for later production of an image product, comprising:

- a first and second member movable between an open and closed position;
- a scanning area disposed in either the first or second member and accessible when the system is in the open position for receiving and scanning the image to produce a digital image;
- a modulated light source for illuminating the image;
- memory disposed within the base member for storing the digital image; and
- a communications means adapted to transmit the digital image stored in the memory to an image producing device for production of the image product comprising the digital image.

18. The portable image capture device of Claim 16, further comprising a display for displaying the digital image.

19. The portable image capture device of Claim 16, wherein the image producing device is disposed at a retail location.

20. The portable imaging system of Claim 16, further comprising a payment mechanism for receiving payment.

21. A portable imaging system transportable by a user between a first and second location for scanning an image for later production of an image product, comprising:

- (a) a scanning area for receiving and scanning the image to produce a digital image;
- (b) a display for displaying the digital image;
- (c) memory for storing the digital image; and
- (d) a communication port adapted to transmit the digital image from the portable imaging system over a communications network to a device for later production of the image product comprising the digital image.